



PASTORS' WIVES

HANDBOOK

(A Guide for Pastors' Wives in Ministry)

We
Support
Encourage
Empower
You!



A PUBLICATION OF THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD NORTH AMERICA

Acknowledgement

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The Pastor's Wives Handbook

INTRODUCTION

Who am I?

Apart from the Trinity the Pastor's wife's place is next to her husband. She is a Minister of God herself. The Pastor's wife has been chosen divinely to be the help for her husband in the Ministry Gen. 2: 18; 1 Pet. 2: 9.

As the wife of a Pastor, her position is a position of honor that should be accepted with gratitude. John 15:16 says, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. ..."

To make full proof of your ministry as a Pastor's wife there is a need for a guiding book to help you operate successfully in the ministry.

Our prayer is that with the help of Holy Spirit, you will find this manual useful.

Who is a Pastor's Wife?

A Pastor's wife is a born again Christian who is legally married to a Pastor.

- **Personal life**
 - She is fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image.

- She has to be role model in everything she does -:
dressing, punctuality, obedience, integrity,
administration, and speech.
 - She should thrive in her role and never feel too big to
ask for help
 - Dedicated to developing her spiritual life; devoted to
God's word, prayers and making disciples.
- **The call**
 - A Pastor's wife is chosen; they do not choose to
become a Pastor's wife (John 15: 16). Whether the
pastor was called before or after marriage, they both
partake in the call because they are one. Gen 2:24
(NLT) says "This explains why a man leaves his father and
mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united
into one".

- **Marriage**

From the foundation of time God ordained marriage; it is the most intimate and sacred, lasting relationship on earth. God wants marriages to be happy, so He gave rules to guide us. Unhappiness comes when we follow the thinking of men and do not follow God's rules. The purpose of marriage is unity, that is, the union of one man and one woman to become one flesh. (Mark 10:7-8). The intimate relationship means sharing not only



physical emotions, but also spiritual because marriage means giving oneself completely to one person, it shuts out relations, to a certain extent and extra-marital relationships totally.

- You are your Husband's crown (Proverbs 12:4) Submit to your husband and respect his office. Being his wife is to help make his authority firm and not to disrespect him. You are to help everywhere and at every opportunity. Always remember that the wife is to help and complement the ministry of the husband, Gen. 2: 18.
- Make yourself an asset to him, not a liability. You must run the race together and not drag him back. "Two are better than one....." Eccl. 4: 9-12; NLT. In order to complement him, you must work hard at your spiritual growth and not ride on your husband's coattails
- A pastor's wife must not be seen running home to her parents, family, friends or church members every time there is an argument in the home. As a wife, your parents and relatives should be loved but they must never be more important to you than your husband and children.
- Being a Christian does not guarantee a successful and happy marriage, neither does it solve all the



difficulties and disagreements encountered in marriage. Allowing the Holy Spirit to be your guide is essential to marital success.

- As a Pastor's wife, you should choose to be happily married. Prov 14:1 – NLT A wise woman builds her home, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands. It is important that you work on creating a loving atmosphere in your marriage and be an example to others Tit 2: 1-5.
- The secret of happiness that the Lord has given is "Love". With love even in poverty, trials and troubles a marriage can be happy.
- The basic responsibility of a wife in marriage is to submit to her husband (Ephesians 5: 22-25). The pastor's wife has been made by God to be a help mate for him and to stand by him in victory, defeat, joy and sorrow. She should always be at his side because she is part of him (Genesis 2:23).
- A Pastor's wife should keep herself beautiful and lovely for her husband. True beauty, however, comes from the inside and it begins from the heart. Her beauty will depend on her true Christian character and not on outward adornment (I Peter 3:2-5).



However, she must follow the simple rules of neatness and good appearance.

- A Pastor's wife should have all the attributes in Titus 2: 4-5. She must love her husband unconditionally with love that will stand the test of time. This love grows with time so that even in old age, the love will still be binding.
- A Pastor's wife must seek to please her husband and his welfare always. She must be a source of encouragement to him. She must not only be a wife, but a friend, mother, sister and confidant all rolled into one.
- A Pastor's wife must make her home a pleasant place which her husband will find peace and love.

Tips on your relationship with your husband

- Keep the romance alive: Plan regular dates with your husband. A movie, dinner, picnic, walk in the park, couples massage are examples. Get a baby sitter (a trusted young adult in your church or faithful mother will make a good choice). If your husband is too busy you plan the date and surprise him! Consider periodically attending marriage conferences even if your marriage is going well. Find activities that both of you like to do together as a couple. Plan a weekend get-a-way.



- 1 Cor. 6:1 –NKJV says “Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? If there is a conflict, the bible clearly indicates how to resolve it”. You can seek counsel from your provincial or zonal pastor’s wife or any of the WIM executive for security and protection if need be.
- If you are in an abusive relationship with your husband whether verbal, mental, emotional, or physical; seek professional Christian counsel and or the counsel of a Senior Pastor over your husband (i.e. If your husband is a parish pastor you should seek the counsel of the Coordinator). Allow the Spirit of God to guide you to where to receive this counsel. DO NOT seek help from members of the congregation.
- Take heed to yourself through the Holy Spirit to perform at the highest efficiency: I Timothy 4:16.
- Be content with the will of God for your life. Make sure you make heaven in the end: Luke 12; Phil. 4: 11-12.

For more information on Marriage resources go to www.rccgna.org/pwf

- **The family**

- Teach your children the importance of their father’s ministry and calling; teach them to love the church, the ministry, and display a Godly character.



Jos.24:15b”But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”

- Train your children and let them play their little roles in the pastoral work. Prov. 22:6; Deut. 6: 6-7; Deut. 4: 9

- **Priorities**

- The order of priority should be God, family and ministry. A pastor’s wife should always remember this order and once she can make a success of these, the Lord will commit greater things into her hands. Col.4:17 “Take **heed** to the **ministry** which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”
- Health - It is important for the Pastors’ wife to take care of herself - body, soul and spirit. Her health should be a priority with special attention given to preventive care. You should maintain a healthy lifestyle. Put good consideration into diet, exercise, health screenings as well as time for relaxation. You can also protect yourself by being aware of symptoms of early signs of health problems. 3John 1: 2 “Beloved, I pray that you may **prosper** in all things and be in health, just as your **soul prospers**.”

- **Continuous development**
 - Spiritual/emotional development - As much as possible, the pastors' wife should look to improve herself spiritually and emotionally by regularly attending seminars and conferences geared to support, encourage and empower her faith and position as a pastors' wife. You are encouraged to be an annual participant at the Pastors' wives conferences held by PWF (Pastors' Wives Forum) of RCCGNA. To find out more about PWF go to www.rccgna.org/pwf

THE ROLE:

Co-Pastor

- The Pastor's wife is a co-pastor that shares the vision of her husband. The office of the pastor is her office too.
- There must be mutual understanding between the workers in the office and herself.
- She should give no room for suspicions; every member of staff must be respected as they respect her too. Respect begets respect!
- She needs to pray for the successful running of the office.
- She must also have her own contributions in terms of decoration, the setting, the furniture and her feminine touch must be visible and noticeable.
- Her husband's interest in the office must be her interest, except in sinning.
- The welfare of the office staff must be her concern.

Intercessor

- Prayer must be your major pre-occupation: I Thess. 5:17. 8; Phil. 4: 6-9



- Pray for your husband always, bearing in mind that a healthy head will give way to a healthy body. When your husband is alright spiritually, you will have the liberty to worship and serve the Lord with all your heart.
- Prayerfully ask the Lord to make you a virtuous woman, so that the heart of your husband will safely trust you. Proverbs 31:11
- You must be conversant with the word: 2 Timothy 3:15. Always allow the Holy Spirit to teach you all things.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility of the pastor's wife is vast and spans numerous areas. She is a mother to the church, the welfare officer to the widows and the senior citizens. In addition to caring for widows, orphans, single parents, the sick etc, she also oversees the maintenance of the church – an extension of her home.

Women

- You must be in a good working relationship with the head of department/executives/leaders of the women ministry to ensure proper coordination of the Women's affairs.
- She is the coordinator or the president of women in ministry (Good women fellowship) of the church.
- Modalities for the general welfare of the church members and organization of programs should be jointly worked out between you and the female leaders in the church.
- Pray for the women and show genuine concern for their welfare, reporting any impropriety among them to the Pastor for correction.
- Give timely information about upcoming events to give enough room for planning e.g. weddings, burials etc.
- Promote love and unity among the women.
- Be a good example of Godliness.

- Ensure letters of invitation for programs are out on time and check to be sure that the invited minister will come. Give appropriate directions to the minister who may have never have been to your parish before.

Children, Preteens and Teenagers

- The pastor's wife is the mother of the church and must make sure that adequate spiritual, physical and emotional arrangements are made for the children's ministry.
- Be approachable and willing to assist as needed.
- Pray for them constantly

Youth

- As the mother of the youth, she should love and pray for them. Encourage them by giving the opportunities to use their talents in appropriate departments of the church.
- Get to know them individually by showing interest in their academics, goals and desires. Help them as much as you can so they will keep loving and serving the Lord.
- If a bad report is brought against any of them, call such aside and find out, pray with and counsel spiritually. Good reports deserve your commendation.



- Since some of them may be very exposed socially and knowledgeable, it is in order to form a youth forum and give room for suggestions from them.
- Marriage Counseling will be of much help to them if handled by mature and competent brethren in the church. Seek out able people to be in this department in your parish. In the area wedding preparation please let all brides bring their wedding gown to you for inspection before marriage. All wedding dresses must be appropriate and there should be no inappropriate exposure of the woman's body.

Hospitality

- An organized pastor's wife must also be a good hostess, both in her home and in the church.
- Entertainment of guests does not have to be elaborate, but it must be done well and in moderation.
- There may be cases where you have to entertain other men or women of God without notice. Be prepared by having food available in the freezer to heat up in a moment's notice, especially if they are in a hurry to leave.
- Be ready and available to receive guests.
- Like her husband, she must be hospitable to church members and strangers, 3 John 1: 5; Tit. 1: 7-8. Sarah is a good example in Gen. 18: 6



Home Maintenance

- Proverbs 31, which is termed the ABC of the virtuous woman, mentions the duties of a wife when managing the household.
- A Pastor's wife is like a show piece which could make a lasting impression, negatively or positively on whoever comes to visit.
- A Pastor's wife therefore must have what it takes to be able to keep the house. She has to know how to make use of the resources she has at her disposal to her advantage. (Proverbs 31:21,25)
- Keep in mind that the task of housekeeping does not come naturally to every wife. Some have to work really hard at it before they can achieve it. The consolation is in the fact that we can do all things through Christ that strengthens us: Phil. 4:13. Housekeeping is the way a wife organizes, manages and runs her home.
- In the case of a Pastor's wife, running a smooth home will ensure she has enough personal time with God, without her husband or children suffering.
- A pastor's wife who cannot keep a good home has no business counseling other women in her church as to how to keep theirs. Get help to clean and do other household chores if necessary.
- It is very important for the wife to plan proper well-cooked and balanced meals. This means that every wife should learn how to cook properly and not to solely depend on canned foods and/or fast food.
- A wife who is a good cook is always the pride of her husband. Meals can be planned weekly and cooked on days that are less busy for her.

- A good wife and house-keeper should always try to emulate the virtuous woman who goes out to get the best for her family Proverbs 31:14. A wife must be ready to do the shopping herself.
- Buying food in bulk is a good idea especially if there is a large family involved. Frequently sending other people to the store can not only be expensive but also take up a lot of time.
- The pastor's wife will have fewer problems if she can plan ahead.

Church Building Maintenance

- The cleaning and beautifying of the church building and its environment are the duties of the women of the Church.
- The Pastor's wife should identify and encourage those gifted in this area to take up the challenge of beautifying God's house.

Tips for church and housekeeping

- You can employ the services of a cleaning company and lawn service contractors.
- Consider going out to eat together as a family once in a while.
- Get a club or discount card such as a Sam's club card, or a Costco card if you have to buy in bulk. You may also try going to a Flea market and Farmer's market for bargains.

Peacekeeping

Promote and maintain peace, unity, and love in the church.

AREAS OF OPERATION

The Pastor's wife is also a minister, therefore, all avenues open to the Pastor are open to her too, but she must operate in humility: 1 Peter 3:4. The following areas are specific areas of operations based on her husband role.

Parish Pastor's wife

- As the mother- you must care for the church in every respect.
- Visit the members, especially the women, occasionally. Know about them and their families and as individuals in order to know the type/extent of the care they might need.
- Care for the needy – widows, sick, aged, lonely, poor – and so on.
- Pray for your husband and for the progress of the gospel work.
- Show hospitality towards visiting ministers and newcomers to the church.
- Be humble enough to ask for and receive advice and help (for the work) where you are lacking.
- Be led by the Holy Spirit in dealing with the church members.
- Be fair in judgments, punctual in meetings and active in duties.
- Network with other pastor's wives in your Zone/province.
- Should attend the annual RCCGNA Pastors' wives Conference

Zonal Coordinator's Pastor's wife

The Zonal Coordinator's Pastor's wife has the responsibilities of the parish pastor's wife and the following:

- Meets with the parish pastor's wives periodically (quarterly is ideal). Teleconferencing is a good way to achieve this. You may meet for prayers and updates in the zone (see next item below)
- Co-ordinates the women's ministry affairs of the zone the parish Pastors' wives and mobilize them to work as a team both at the zonal and parish levels.
- Reach out to the pastors' wives and show concern for their well beings
- Be interested in the welfare of the women in your zone.
- Pray for the expansion of the ministry, especially the women ministry.
- Give full support to your husband.
- Give good hospitality to zonal guests and be very accommodating.
- Be peace loving and be a peace maker wherever there is trouble or disagreement.
- Attend zonal pastors' wives meeting with the Mummy G.O and/or RCCGNA Chairman's wife and carry out every assignment from the National Headquarters with the fear of God.
- Network with other Coordinators' wives in your province and RCCGNA



- If you have a secular job you must organize yourself in such a way as to have fulfillment in your husband's ministry.
- Should attend the annual RCGNA Pastors' Wives Conference

Provincial Pastor's Wives

The Provincial Pastor's wife has the responsibilities of the parish pastor's wife and the following:

- Meet with the coordinators wives periodically (quarterly is ideal). While a Physical meeting might not be realistic, teleconferencing could be an option.
- Plan a visit at least once in a year to province headquarters.
- Connect with the women executive and communicate decisions made to the coordinator's wives.
- Give maximum support to the chairman's wife and the WIM Executive, to achieve their goals, objectives, and to actualize their visions.
- Network with other Provincial Pastors' wives in RCGNA
- Organize program(s) as convenient as possible to bring all women in the province together in order to foster love and unity.
- Help the Parish, Area, and Zonal pastor's wives to reach their maximum potential by encouraging their zeal and keeping their hope alive.
- Coordinate the provincial women affairs with the zonal pastor's wives.
- Goals, objectives and visions must be spelt out and run with.
- Encourage all zonal coordinators wives to mobilize all zonal women to attend all national provincial and zonal programs.
- Learn to respect individual differences to accommodate all in your visions and goals.

- Promote and maintain peace, unity, and love among the women.
 - Be an example of a virtuous woman.
 - Should attend the annual RCCGNA Pastors' wives Conference

Relationships with other ministerial operations

The Pastor's wife is a minister in the congregation. Her healthy relationship with other ministers and the workers in different department will bring harmony and encouragement to the workers and progress to the ministry. Patience and wisdom is necessary in dealing with men – 1 Thess. 5:14. Be as friendly as possible and endure the office hardship, e.g. transfers, criticism, needs, language barriers etc.

She must be fair and just in her dealings. She must commend and encourage church members and reprimand when necessary. She should be ready to give her suggestions as the parish mother to any department.

At the same time, she should be able to motivate others by visiting them when necessary, sharing in their joys and sorrows. As an example, Jesus Christ shared the sorrow of the death of Lazarus and shared in the joy of the people at the wedding that took place in Cana in Galilee.

She must have an impact on the workers by attending workers' meetings, because she too is a worker.

The law that governs every worker governs her too, in order to be a good example.

She must make sure that she has her own areas of operation as a worker. She should never feel too big to ask for help from your subordinates. And she must not exempt herself from the major activities in the church like evangelism, missions, prayer meetings, conventions, etc.

Relationships with church members

The pastor's wife's role is that of the mother of the church. She should be approachable, compassionate, loving, amiable and a good communicator.

She should be an example of a believer (1Tim 4:12) commanding the respect of the members of the congregation.

She should be mindful of her personal relationship with members of the congregation so as not to jeopardize the pastor-member relationship.

LIFESTYLE

- Seasons of life – You should embrace the season of your life as a Pastor's wife while not neglecting your personal responsibilities which could be your education, starting a family, a career - working outside the church etc.
- Preventing Burnout/Maintaining your joy - You must prayerfully carry out both responsibilities without being burnt out. There is joy in the ministry
- Handling the challenges that come with your position. Be prepared to endure the hardship of the ministry e.g. transfers, criticism, needs, language barriers etc.
- Role Model - You should model Christ's love to all and be a role model in everything in the church, that is, in dressing, punctuality, obedience, speech and administration.
- Testimony

Finishing Well! (Galatians 6:9)

Every grace has been given. The pastor's wife is expected to be a mentor of unconditional love, a mother, a helper, a burden carrier, a cheerful encourager, a friend in adversity, an affirmer of good deeds, a merciful person with a steadfast heart, a faithful confidant and an evangelist in the Ministry of Lord Jesus Christ. Quite a package, but the Lord will help you to be all of the above.

Does the Bible expect you to have all of these qualities? Yes

1. To be a mentor (Titus 2:4-5), temperate, self-controlled, sound in faith, love and endurance. This will let others see you as a good example.



2. To show unconditional love to all around them, showing no favoritism thereby crushing jealousy between members. Proverbs 14:30 says a heart at peace gives life to the body but envy rots the bones. Unconditional love also develops trust in you and shows the love of God – Agape.
3. To be a mother so that a binding love is developed between yourself and other members. A sense of loyalty such as the one found in Ruth (Ruth 1:16b *“...where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God”*.) Your love and sensitive responses to the individual will develop in your members a sense of faithfulness to you and the ministry you serve.
4. Be a helper, doing good to all, according to Galatians 6:1-5, carrying the burden of others.
5. Wearing cheerful looks brings joy to the heart of all those who behold you. It sends a message of love and makes you more easily accessible (Proverbs 15:30)
6. Pleasant words are like honey comb. Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones (Proverbs 16:24). Always have a good word of encouragement for everyone you meet, even when you least feel like it. It is an act of healing and a form of ministrations to those around you.
7. Be seen to be a faithful friend in adversity, loving people at all times as a friend at all times and as a brother is born for adversity (Proverbs 17:17)
8. Show mercy, forgive easily and be steadfast in all your dealings. This displays the love of the Lord.
9. Show compassion towards the needs of others, be a listening ear for those who wish to unburden themselves onto you (Lamentations 3:22-23).



10. Be a tireless faithful person, forgiving each offence quickly, spending yourself on behalf of all (Isaiah 58: 10-11).
11. As a minister, show yourself in a friendly matter, (Proverbs 18:24a) as you share and divide the word of knowledge, truth, evangelism and follow-up.
12. Encourage teamwork, bringing out the potentials you discover in growing members, working together with them to bring to fruition the vision they have.

In order to finish strong, you must assess yourself and continuously work on improving yourself where you may be weak. You should seek to improve yourself by yielding to the Spirit of God and acquiring relevant information that will enhance and develop you. In some cases, you should not do things all by yourself, but consider enlisting the assistance of your husband, elders at church, and family members, etc. in order to get the job done.

God's strength and grace will enable you to shoulder much responsibility, but do not succumb to pressure to perform duties that you are ill-equipped to handle or you are not comfortable in. Remember to serve in accordance with God's gifts, rather than in accordance with human expectations. Colossians 3:23 encourages you to focus on God's expectations for your life, not men's.

Your attitude in developing good relationships between yourself and members, especially other women, will earn you the joy and fulfillment in ministry....To the glory of God!

As a pastor's wife you honor God and glorify him. May you be blessed as you fulfill your calling as a Pastor's wife!

FAQ (Frequently Asked questions)

Q: How do I find a balance between home and ministry?

A: In keeping balance remember that God, family, and ministry are the order of priority. After God, your priority is your home (husband and children). Always be prayerful about this and the Holy Spirit will guide you as to the right decisions. Try to know your limits and do not overstress yourself by taking on too many responsibilities. Are there some responsibilities you can delegate to others in the Church so you have more time to handle those at home?

Q: How do I handle older people/people in position of office whose actions undermine me/my office?

A: Develop a good rapport and respect with those who are older than you right from the onset, and it will be much easier to work with them with understanding as time goes on and in the future.

Q: How do I solve my problem of loneliness and isolation?

A: maintain an active role in the church. Many pastor's wives have various gifts; find avenues to use your gifts to impact lives. Find your place not only in the church but also within the community so that you can have real fulfillment. Be involved in different areas of the ministry.

By taking the steps above you remove the focus away from you and any feelings of loneliness you might have.

Q: There are no laid down rules or roles for me. I don't know what to do. I just do what I feel is right.

A: Your major role is to support your husband; find out what you may be passionate about and this may help you find your ministry in the Church (you may get a clue from what you do in your secular jobs)



1. Be a good help mate, let him find comfort and encouragement in you when the ministry gets tough and hard.
2. Uphold the home ministry so that he can be comfortable in ministry
3. Teach your children the importance of their father's ministry and calling; teach them to love the church, the ministry, and display a Godly character.
4. Mentor the younger women, disciple them, be hospitable, make your home a happy welcome to your congregation.
5. Be a good example to all, especially for the women.
6. Have a good listening ear.
7. Be a prayer warrior

Q: How do I meet the expectations of the people as the pastor's wife?

A: Don't be intimidated by the people's expectations. There will always be expectations that are impossible to live up to. Seek the face of God, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, and do your best and just leave the rest to God. It is not possible to please all and to always do it all. Don't allow people's talk about you, your children, and or your dressing to discourage you. To be a pastor's wife takes a special grace. You must be a God called woman with the patience of Deborah, Esther, and Abigail. The calling, the office, and your position attract people to you.

Q: How do I deal with people's comments?

A: Your calling, your office and role are being sized up by the congregation and anybody can pass whatever comment. Just be yourself and in total peace. Maintain dignity and comport yourself in a Godly manner.

Q: How am I sure I was called?

A: God calls a total man. Your husband is not complete without you so when God called him He also called you by his side. You are his helper in the ministry, the home, and the church as well. Do not do the work of the pastor but both of you should work together as a team for the progress of the work of God.

Q: Many do not even want me to be heard; all they want is the pastor

A: It depends on you and your relationship with your husband and the congregation. Though many people like to put the pastor's wife in a box and relegate her to the background, you can make the most use of your gift and be involved as actively as you can. Be careful that you do not leading your husband to lead them. Be submissive to your husband and love the people.

Q: What do I do if my husband does not praise or reference me in church or give me any role to play in church activities?

A: First do a self-check and pay attention to what your husband says or might have said. Are there things that your husband might have mentioned that you need to work on that does not make him comfortable recognizing or praising you in private or public? Have a discussion with your husband seeking to understand his perspective and not just vent. Communicate to him prayerfully how you feel and changes you would like to see. Arguing or having a fight on the issue might not be the solution

Q: What do I do if husband is involved in an unhealthy life style (pornography, X-rated movies, black magic or consulting oracles, etc.)

A: Pray through the issue and ask the Holy Spirit to direct you, and then address the issue with your husband. If he confesses seek counsel. If he denies that he has a problem take the issue to a senior Pastor above him and let him know of the issue at hand. (i.e. .If you are a parish Pastor seek the counsel of the Coordinator).

Q: What do I do if my husband is lazy?

A: If your husband is a born again Christian he cannot truly be lazy. The other question is, could you be comparing your husband with another Pastor (who appears to be doing more than your husband in your eyes) and therefore you think that he (your husband) is lazy? Please reevaluate your own your life and thoughts about your husband and if your conscience is clear address this issue with him.

